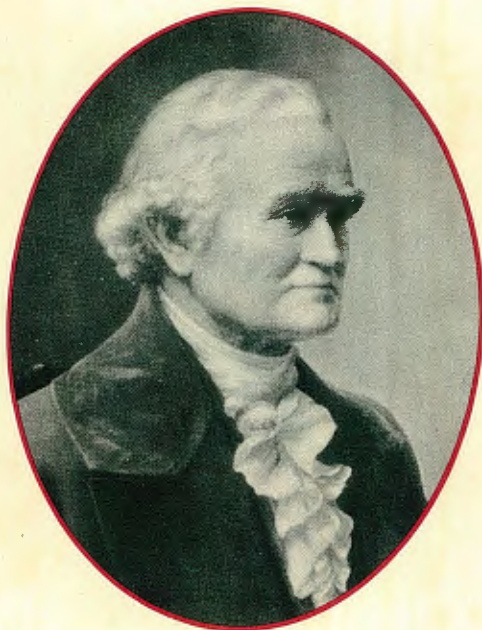


A
Compendious Dictionary
of the English Language

A facsimile of the first (1806) edition



Noah Webster

with an Introduction by PHILIP B. GOVE
Editor in Chief

Webster's Third New International Dictionary

*A chronology of major dictionaries
edited by Noah Webster and Merriam-Webster*

A COMPENDIOUS DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE	1806
AN AMERICAN DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE	1828
AN AMERICAN DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE <i>Second Edition</i>	1840
AN AMERICAN DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE <i>New Revised Edition</i>	1847*
AN AMERICAN DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE <i>Royal Quarto Edition, Unabridged</i>	1864
WEBSTER'S INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY	1890
WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY	1909
WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY <i>Second Edition</i>	1934
WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY	1961
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WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY	1898
WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, <i>Second Edition</i>	1910
WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, <i>Third Edition</i>	1916
WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, <i>Fourth Edition</i>	1931
WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, <i>Fifth Edition</i>	1936
WEBSTER'S NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, <i>Sixth Edition</i>	1949
WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY	1963

*Following Noah Webster's death in 1841, George and Charles Merriam obtained exclusive publishing rights to Webster's American Dictionary copyrighted in 1840, which was Webster's last and most comprehensive work, together with exclusive rights to publish revisions and abridgments. They published the first Merriam-Webster dictionary in 1847.

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This is a precise copy of Noah Webster's first dictionary, representing the author's earliest attempt to create for general use a concise listing of five thousand common words, a majority of which were omitted in other lexicons of his day.

Noah Webster was a natural linguist and a born definer of words. The Preface to this volume displays his remarkable grasp of the nature of language. Self-taught in more than twenty languages, Webster theorized about the origin, history, and relation of various tongues, reaching this conclusion: "English, like every living language, is in a state of progression, as rapid now as at any former period; even more rapid, than before the great Dr. Johnson flattered himself that he might fix the language and put a stop to alterations.... It is fruitless to attempt to fix that which is in its

(continued on back flap)

Portrait of Noah Webster

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PUBLISHERS OF THE MERRIMAN-WEBSTER
DICTIONARIES

Ab'negate, *v. t.* to deny, disown, refuse
Ab'negation, *n.* the act of denying, refusing
Ab'nodation, *n.* a cutting excrescences from trees
Ab'normity, *n.* deformity, irregularity
Ab'normous, *a.* out of rule or order, irregular
Ab'dard, *ad.* in a ship, safe, secure, at ease
Ab'de, *n.* a habitation, stay, continuance, delay
Ab'de, *v. t.* to prognosticate, foreshow, *ob.*
Ab'dement, *n.* a secret anticipation, a preface, *ob.*
Ab'olish, *v. t.* to destroy, repeal, make void
Ab'olishable, *a.* that may be destroyed
Ab'olisher, *n.* a person that abolishes or destroys
Ab'olishment, Ab'olition, *n.* the act of repealing
Ab'ominable, *a.* detestable, very hateful, abhorred
Ab'ominableness, *n.* extreme odiousness
Ab'ominably, *ad.* very hatefully, odiously
Ab'ominate, *v. t.* to hate, loathe, abhor, detest
Ab'omination, *n.* an object of hatred, a pollution
Ab'orig'inal, *a.* first or primitive
Ab'orig'inals, *n. pl.* first or primitive inhabitants
Ab'ortion, Ab'ort'ment, *n.* a miscarriage in women
Ab'ortive, *a.* untimely, unsuccessful; *n.* a velleum
Ab'ortiveness, *n.* the state of being abortive
Abound', *v. i.* to have in plenty, or be in plenty
Abound'ing, *pa.* plentiful, increasing [ry way
About', *pr.* near to, concerning; *ad.* around, even
Above', [abuv] *pr.* higher, more; *ad.* overhead
Above'board, *ad.* without reserve or artifice
Above'cited, *a.* cited before, mentioned before
Above'ground, *ad.* alive, living, not in the grave
Above'mentioned, *a.* mentioned above or before
Abrade, *v. t.* to rub or scrape off, to grate
Abrasion, *n.* a rubbing, wearing or scraping off
Ab'reast', *ad.* side by side, on a line with, opposite
Abridge', *v. t.* to contract, shorten, deprive
Abridged, *pa.* shortened, deprived of
Abridg'er, *n.* a person that shortens or contracts
Abridg'ment, *n.* a work abridged or shortened
Ab'roach, *ad.* in readiness to run or come out
Ab'road, [abrawd] *ad.* out, out of doors, in another country
Ab'rogate, *v. t.* to repeal, annul, abolish
Abrogation, *n.* the act of repealing [needed
Abrupt', *a.* sudden, hasty, broken, rough, uncon-
Abrupt'ion, *n.* a violent and sudden separation
Abruptly, *ad.* suddenly, unreasonably, roughly
Abruptness, *n.* great haste, suddenness, roughness
Ab'scess, *n.* a swelling or cavity containing matter
Ab'scind', *v. t.* to cut off, pare off, rend off or away
Ab'scission, *n.* the act of cutting or rending off

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Abolitive, v. i. to abolish or leave.
Absorbent, a. spongy, capable of absorbing liquids.
Absolute, a. not limited, arbitrary, complete.
Absolutely, ad. positively, arbitrarily, completely.
Absoluteness, n. positiveness, arbitrariness, completeness.
Absolution, n. forgiveness, absolving.
Absolutely, a. tending to absolute or perfect.
Absonant, Absonous, a. absurd, foolish.
Absorb', v. i. absorbed, pret. absorbed; ptpr. absorbing;
pa. to suck up, swallow up, waste.
Absorbability, n. capacity of being absorbed.
Absorbable, a. that may be imbibed or absorbed.
Absorbent, a. sucking up, drying up.
Absorption, n. a vessel or substance which absorbs.
Absorptive, a. absorbing, tending to absorb.
Abstain, v. i. to forbear, refrain, deny one's self.
Abstemious, a. temperate in diet.
Abstemiously, ad. temperately.
Abstemioussness, n. temperance in diet.
Absterge' or Abstersie', v. i. to cleanse, wipe off.
Abstergent or Absterive, a. cleansing, wiping off.
Absterision, n. the act of cleansing or wiping off.
Abstinence, n. a refraining from, temperance.
Abstinent, a. refraining from, temperate.
Abstract', v. i. to separate, remove, draw off.
Abstract, n. an abridgement, a summary.
Abstract, a. abstracted, separated, pure.
Abstract'ed, pa. separated, abstracted, alienated.
Abstract'edly, Abstractly, ad. simply, by itself.
Abstract'edness, n. an abstracted state.
Abstraction, n. a drawing from, a separation of ideas, withdrawing from the world.
Abstruse, a. difficult to be understood, dark.
Abstrusely, ad. obscurely, not plainly, darkly.
Abstruseness, n. obscurity of meaning.
Absurd', a. contrary to reason, foolish, ridiculous.
Absurdity, n. unreasonableness, inconsistency.
Absurdly, ad. unreasonably, inconsistently.
Absurdness, n. absurdity, inconsistency.
Abundance, n. great plenty, great number.
Abundant, a. plentiful, abounding with.
Abundantly, ad. plentifully, perfectly.
Abuse, [abuze] v. i. to treat ill, offend, wrong.
Abuse, n. the ill use of anything.
Abused, pa. used ill, treated roughly, offended.
Abuser, n. one that uses another wrongly, offender.
Abusive, a. conveying abuse, offensive.
Abusively, ad. in an abusive manner, abusively.
Abusiveness, n. ill usage, bad language.
Abut', v. i. to border upon, join, terminate.

as the solid part of a
Abyssinian, *n. pl.* bounda
Abyssinian, *n.* a native
Abyssinian, *a.* pertaining
Acacia, *n.* a plant, the
Académian, Académic
mist, *n.* a student at, a
Academic, Académic
Academic, *n.* a Platon
Academy, *n.* a school
Acacrapon, *n.* a Mexic
Acaculous, *a.* prickly,
Acanthus, *n.* a fish wh
Acanthine, *a.* pertainin
Acanthus, *n.* the herb
its leaves in building
Acarus, *n.* an insect inf
Acatalectic, *n.* a verse
Acatalectic, *a.* very m
Accede, *v. i.* to come
Accelerate, *v. t.* to ha
Accelerated, *pa.* haften
Acceleration, *n.* a hake
Acceler', *v. t.* to light,
Acceleration, *n.* the act
Accent, *n.* a mark on a
Accent', *v. t.* to note t
Accentual, *a.* relating t
Accentuation, *n.* a pla
Accept', *v. t.* to take,
Acceptable, *a.* agreeab
Acceptably, *ad.* pleas
Accept'ance, *n.* appro
bill of exchange for a
Acceptation, Acceptio
Accepter, *n.* one who
Access, *n.* admission, a
of approach, invasion
Accessary, *a.* contribu
Accessible, *a.* that m
Accessibility, *n.* the sta
Accession, *n.* the act
Accessory, *n.* one who
Accidence, *n.* a book o
Accident, *n.* a proper
comes to pass witho
Accidental, *a.* casual,
Accidentally, *ad.* by ch
Accipiters, *n.* a ge
the sturgeon, rather
Accipiters, *n.* an orde
Accidm, Acclamation
Acclivity, *n.* the asce
Accloy', *v. t.* to cloy,
Accommodable, *a.* th
Accommodate, *v. t.*
Accommodate, *a.* fu

dy, taint
 us, tainting
 on, contagiously
 ty
 r, calamity
 aw, conclude
 from premises
 ed or concluded
 ; a. lower, less
 ity or place
 er, lying below
 l, barren, poor
 enness, poverty
 ue, annoy
 hes to laymen,
 traitor, pagan
 ory, absurd
 belief in Christ
 g the interstices
 pores, the sub-
 bounded, end-
 ensely
 ssness, infinity
 ll part
 a. unlimited
 nment
 ly, irresolute
 shake, shatter
 , a hospital
 ult, disease
 craziness
 implant

Influential, *a.* flowing or running power over
 Influen'za, *n.* an epidemic cold or catarrh
 In'flux, *n.* the act of flowing in, increase, power
 In'fold, *v. t.* to involve, inwrap, inclose, fold up
 In'foliate, *v. t.* to cover or spread with leaves
 Inform', *v. t.* to tell, acquaint, accuse, animate
 Inform', *a.* unshapen, shapeless, ugly, uncouth
 Inform'al, *a.* informing, accusing, irregular, loose
 Inform'al'ity, *n.* want of form or technical manner
 Inform'ant, Inform'er, *n.* one who informs
 Inform'ation, *n.* intelligence, notice, a charge
 Inform'idable, *a.* not to be feared or dreaded
 Inform'ity, *n.* shapelessness, irregularity, ugliness
 Inform'ous, *a.* shapeless, irregular, rough, strange
 Infor'tunate, *a.* unlucky, unhappy, miserable
 Infrac't, *v. t.* to break, crush, violate
 Infrac'tion, *n.* the act of breaking, a violation
 Inframund'ane, *a.* lying or set beneath the world
 Infran'gible, *a.* not to be broken, durable, firm
 Infré'quency, *n.* uncommonness, strangeness
 Infré'quent, *a.* rare, unusual, uncommon, strange
 Infri'gidate, *v. t.* to chill, cool, make cold, ob.
 Infrigid'ation, *n.* the act of chilling or cooling, ob.
 Infringe', *v. t.* to violate, break, transgress
 Infringe'ment, *n.* a violation, breach, transgression
 Infrin'ger, *n.* a violator, breaker, transgressor
 In'fucate, *v. t.* to paint, paint the face, daub over
 Infundib'ulliform, *a.* shaped like a funnel
 Infū'riate, *v. t.* to enrage, to make mad or furious
 Infū'riate, *a.* like a fury, mad, raging, enraged
 Infusc'ate, *v. t.* to make black, blacken, darken
 Infū'se, *v. t.* to pour in, put, steep, tincture, inspire
 Infū'sible, *a.* that may be infused, that cannot be
 fused or made liquid (ving power of heat
 Infusibil'ity, *n.* the quality of resisting the dissol

In'gion, *n.*
 In'graft, *v. t.*
 er, to fix d
 In'graft'ment,
 In'grain, *v. t.*
 In'grained, *a.*
 Ingr'ate, *a.*
 Ingr'ate, *n.*
 Ingr'atiate, *v.*
 Ingr'atiation,
 Ingr'atitude,
 Ingr'édient, *n.*
 In'gress, *n.*
 Ingres'sion, *n.*
 In'guinal, *a.*
 Ingulf, *v. t.*
 Ingur'gitate,
 Ingurgit'ation,
 Ingust'able, *a.*
 Inhab'il'ity, *n.*
 Inhab'it, *v. t.*
 Inhab'itable,
 Inhab'itance,
 Inhab'itancy,
 rights of a
 Inhab'itant,
 place, on
 time to
 maintena
 Inhab'itation,
 Inh'ale, *v. t.*
 Inh'aler, *n.*
 Inharm'onio
 Inh'ere, *v. t.*
 Inh'erence,
 Inh'erent, *a.*
 Inher'it, *v.*

Bráze, *v. i.* to cover or border with brass
 Brázen, *v. i.* to bully, be impudent, stand out
 Brázenface, *n.* a bold impudent wretch, a bold girl
 Brázenfaced, *a.* impudent, shameless, very bold
 Brázenness, *n.* a brazen quality, great boldness
 Breach, *n.* an opening, gap, difference, quarrel, violation, invasion, bruise, affliction by a loss
 Bread, *n.* food made of flour or meal, provisions in general
 Bread'corn, *n.* any corn of which bread is made
 Bread'less, *a.* destitute of bread, or food
 Bread'tree, *n.* a tropical tree, whose fruit is food
 Breadth or Bredth, *n.* measure from side to side
 Break, *v.* brake, broke, *pret.* broken, broke, *pa.* to part by force, dash to pieces, tame, become a bankrupt, ruin, fall out, violate, dawn as the day, cashier, decline in strength
 Break, *n.* an opening, breach, failure, pause, line
 Breakage, *n.* a breaking or allowance for things broke
 Break'er, *n.* one that breaks, a large wave, a rock
 Break'fast, *v. i.* to eat the morning's meal
 Break'fast, *n.* the first meal in the day
 Bream, *n.* a kind of coarse fish
 Bream, *v. t.* to cleanse a ship's bottom by fire
 Breast, *n.* a part of the body, conscience, the heart
 Breast'high, *a.* high as or reaching up to the breast
 Breast'knot, *n.* a knot of ribands worn on the breast
 Breast'plate, *n.* armor for the breast (breast
 Breast'plow, *n.* a small plough driven by the
 Breast'work, *n.* a parapet as high as the breast
 Breath, *n.* life, air respired, a breeze, respite, rest, ease, single moment, instant
 Breathe, *v.* to respire, live, take breath or rest, move as air, exhale, [give vent, utter silently, make to sound
 Breathing, *n.* a drawing breath, prayer, respite, run
 Breath'less, *a.* out of breath, hurried, dead
 Brec'cia, *n.* a stone consisting of fragments agglu-

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 Breviat, *n.* a compendium, a summary
 Brevier, *n.* a small sort of printing press
 Brevity, *n.* shortness, conciseness
 Brew, *v.* to make liquors, plot, conspire
 Brew'er, *n.* one who brews, one who plots
 Brew'ery, *n.* a house and apparatus for brewing
 Brew'house, *n.* a house or place for brewing
 Brew'ing, *n.* the act of making malt liquor brewed, a plotting
 Briarean, *a.* like Briareus the giant
 Bribe, *n.* a gift to pervert the judgment
 Bribe, *v. t.* to gain or corrupt by gifts
 Briber, *n.* one that gives bribes, bribe
 Bribery, *n.* the act or crime of bribing
 Brick, *n.* clay with sand and water, when
 mold, a loaf like a brick
 Brick, *v. t.* to lay, form, or wall up
 Brick, *a.* made or built of brick
 Brick'bat, *n.* a broken piece or part of a brick
 Brick'dust, *n.* dust made by pounding
 Brick'ing, *n.* imitation of a brick wall
 Brick'kiln, *n.* a kiln used for burning bricks
 Brick'layer, *n.* a mason, a worker in brick
 Brick'maker, *n.* one who makes or molds bricks
 Brick'y, *a.* like a brick
 Bridal, *n.* a marriage-feast; *a.* belonging to a bride
 Bride, *n.* a new-married woman, a bride
 Bridebed, *n.* a marriage-bed
 Bridecake, *n.* cake given to guests at a wedding
 Bridegroom, *n.* the name of a new-married man
 Bridemaid, *n.* a woman who attends a bride at marriage
 Bridewell, *n.* a house of correction, a prison
 Bridge, *n.* a building to pass over water
 Bridge, *v. t.* to form a bridge over
 Bridge, *n.* an instrument to guide the part of the nose or of a violin
 Bridle, *n.* an instrument to guide a horse
 Bridle, *v.* to put on a bridle, restrain
 Bridlehand, *n.* the left or better hand of a horse
 Brief, *n.* short extract or introduction, a part, concise, narrow, concise, in a few words

Transcend'ent, *ad.* in the manner of or by a copy
 Transcend'ion, *n.* a passing beyond limits, a ramble
 Transduc'tion, *n.* the act of conveying over
 Transfementâtion, *n.* a change of elements, *ob.*
 Transfex'ion, *n.* a change of sex or nature, *ob.*
 Transfer', *v. t.* to make over, remove, transport
 Trans'fer, *n.* the act of making over to another
 Transfer'able, *a.* that may or can be transferred
 Transfere'e, *n.* he to whom a transfer is made
 Transfigurâtion, *n.* a change of form, a change
 Transfig'ure, *v. t.* to transform, to change the
 Transfix', *v. t.* to pierce through, to kill (shape
 Transform', *v.* to change the shape, to be changed
 Transformâtion, *n.* a change of form or state
 Transfretâtion, *n.* a passage made over a sea, *ob.*
 Transfûse, *v. t.* to pour into another, to change
 Transfûsion, *n.* the act of pouring into another
 Transgress', *v.* to violate, break, offend, go beyond
 Transgres'sion, *n.* a violation, offense, sin, crime
 Transgress'ive, *a.* apt to break laws, guilty
 Transgress'or, *n.* a lawbreaker, offender, sinner
 Tranship', *v. t.* to carry from one ship to another
 Tranship'ment, *n.* the act of transferring from one
 ship to another
 Tran'sient, *a.* soon past, very short, momentary
 Tran'siently, *ad.* with short passage, slightly
 Transilience, *n.* a leap from one thing to another
 Trans'it, *n.* the passage by or over of a planet
 Transi'tion, *n.* a passage, removal, change, leap
 Trans'itive, *a.* having the power of passing over
 Trans'itorily, *ad.* with a short continuance
 Trans'itory, *a.* continuing for a short time

Transparen
 Transparen
 through
 Transpire
 Transpirât
 Transpire,
 Transplâce
 Transplant
 Transplant
 Transplan
 Trans'port
 delight,
 Transpôrt
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 Transport
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 place of
 Transpôrt
 Transposi
 Transshâ
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 Transudâ
 Transûde
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 Transvec
 Transver
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 Trans've

Violaceous, *a.* resembling or like violets (flour
 Violate, *v. t.* to injure, hurt, infringe, ravish, de-
 Violation, *n.* an infringement, transgression, rape
 Violator, *n.* one who violates, one who ravishes
 Violence, *n.* force, fury, outrage, injury, an attack
 Violent, *a.* forcible, furious, outrageous, sharp
 Violently, *ad.* with force or fury, vehemently, fast
 Violet, *n.* a sweet-smelling flower
 Violin', *n.* a sweet musical instrument, a fiddle
 Violist, *n.* one who plays upon the viol or violin
 Violoncel'lo, *n.* a musical instrument (thing
 Viper, *n.* a serpent, adder, mischievous person or
 Viperine, Viperous, *a.* of or in quality like a viper
 Virago, *n.* a very bold resolute woman, a termagant
 Virélay, *n.* a French poem of two rhymes only
 Virent, *a.* green, verdant, unfaded, blooming
 Virge, *n.* a dean's mace, a white rod or staff
 Virg'ate, *a.* having many twigs
 Vir'gin, *v. i.* to play the virgin, to be very coy
 Vir'gin, *n.* a maid unacquainted with man, a sign
 Vir'gin, *a.* maidenly, untouched, pure, unmingled
 Vir'ginal, *n.* an old stringed musical instrument, *ob.*
 Vir'ginal, *a.* maiden, maidenly; *v. i.* to hit or
 Virgin'ity, *n.* maidenhood (strike gently
 Virgin'ia, *n.* one of the United States of America
 Virgin'ian, *n.* a native of Virginia
 Virgin'ian, *a.* belonging to Virginia
 Vir'go, *n.* the virgin, a sign in the zodiac
 Virid'ity, *n.* greenness, verdure
 Virile, *a.* manly, suiting a man, bold, courageous
 Viril'ity, *n.* manhood, the power of procreation
 Virtual, *a.* effectual, powerful, equivalent, real
 Virtute, efficacy, power